

ABSTRACT

A reversing valve for a vapor compression refrigeration system comprising a housing defining a chamber with a high pressure port, a low pressure port and first and second system ports opening into said chamber through a chamber wall; a valve member disposed in the housing for shifting movement generally parallel to the wall between a first position wherein the valve member communicates the low pressure port with the first system port while communicating the high pressure port with the second system port and a second position wherein the valve member communicates the low pressure port with the second system port while communicating the high pressure port with the first system port, the valve member blocking communication between the high and low pressure ports when in the first and second positions; the valve member subjected to a net differential pressure force acting to firmly seat the valve member in the first or second position for preventing leakage between the high pressure port and the low pressure port; and, an actuator for reversing the direction of the net differential pressure force acting on the valve member to unseat the valve member and move it away from its first or second position for facilitating the shifting movement to the other position.